

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aronzo US 5,796,681 (hereinafter "Aronzo"). The Examiner has advised that if claim 2 becomes allowable, a double patenting objection to claim 3 will be raised.

Double Patenting

Claim 3 has been canceled to avoid any double patenting objection.

Prior Art Rejections

Amended independent claim 1 claims a method of displaying examination information during one or more portions of an examination, and now includes "providing a warning light to alert a user of an event relating to the operation of the timer", "activating the warning light in a first manner at a predefined time relative to the end of the examination", and "activating the same warning light in a second manner at a predefined time relative to the end of the portion of the examination".

Aronzo does not teach or suggest the steps of amended claim 1. For example, Aronzo does not use the same warning light at predefined times relative to the end of an examination and the end of a portion of the examination. Aronzo teaches the use of separate displays (e.g., displays 12, 14, and 16 in FIG. 1) for displaying different times. For example, display 16 of Aronzo displays the overall time remaining, display 14 keeps track of the number of questions completed, and display 12 keeps track of the time remaining to answer the current question. The Examiner relies on language in Aronzo (Column 4, lines 46-48) to teach the activation of a visual indicator. However, Aronzo fails to teach or suggest all of the steps in amended claim 1 (for example, that the same warning light is used in two ways to alert a user to two different things).

In addition, various features claimed in dependent claims are not taught or suggested by Aronzo. It is therefore believed that amended claim 1, and all claims depending from claim 1, are allowable over the cited prior art.

Amended independent claim 22 claims a method of displaying information during a timed event having sub-events, and now includes "providing a digital display for displaying information", "displaying information on the digital display relating to both the time remaining in the event and to the number of sub-events", "providing a visual indicator separate from the digital display", and "activating the visual indicator to alert a user of the end of a timed period, wherein the user is alerted without using sound".

Aronzo does not teach or suggest the steps of amended claim 22. For example, Aronzo does not teach a method using a timer having a separate digital display for displaying information relating to the time remaining in an event and to the number of sub-events, and a visual indicator for alerting a user of the end of a timed period. For example, referring to FIG. 3, Aronzo uses the same display (non-digital display 36) to display the overall time remaining in a test and to indicate when the time remaining is all but exhausted. (Column 4, lines 37-46). Note that Aronzo does describe a digital display 40, but the limitations of amended claim 22 are still not taught or suggested. In addition, various features claimed in dependent claims are not taught or suggested by Aronzo. It is therefore believed that amended claim 22, and all claims depending from claim 22, are allowable over the cited prior art.

New independent claim 38 claims a timer including, among other things, a housing with one or more buttons disposed on the top surface of the housing for allowing a user to control the operation of the timer, and a stand coupled to the back surface of the housing and extending

outward from the housing such that when the timer is propped up using the stand, the top surface is substantially level.

One example of a timer that meets the elements of new claim 38 is shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 of the present application. The exemplary timer housing 14 shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 provides advantages over other timers, including the timers described in Aronzo. For example, by using the stand 16, the timer 10 is propped up at an angle that allows a user to easily read the display 30 and use the buttons 28. In addition, the button 26, located on the top surface of the housing 14, is easily accessible to a user during a test. Aronzo does not teach or suggest the timer claimed in new claim 38. In addition, various features claimed in dependent claims are not taught or suggested by Aronzo. It is therefore believed that new claim 38, and all claims depending from claim 38, are allowable over the cited prior art.

Note that various claims have been canceled. All of the canceled claims (except claim 3, discussed above) were canceled either (1) to incorporate elements from canceled claims into a parent claim, or (2) to avoid excess claims fees.

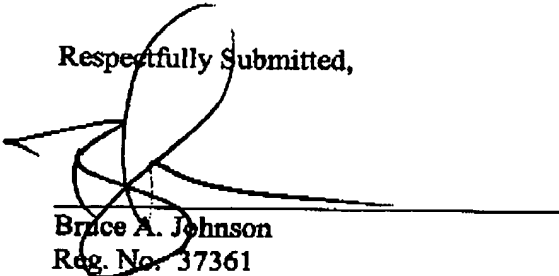
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are patentable over the prior art. It is further more respectfully submitted that all other matters have been addressed and remedied and that the application is in form for allowance. Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Bruce A. Johnson, Applicants'

Attorney at 512-301-9900 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date


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